

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

----- PRESS RELEASE -----

NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN – A recently published news article was written in such a manner that it resulted in numerous calls from the public to the Wenham Water Department expressing concern regarding possible health risks. This press release is provided in order to assure the public that no health risks exist and that Wenham water is safe to drink. The fact is the Town of Wenham has been issued a “Notice of Enforcement Conference” with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to discuss a **DRAFT** “Administrative Consent Order” which would require Wenham to install permanent disinfection. The purpose of the enforcement conference is to provide the Town of Wenham the opportunity to discuss the alleged violations and to reach a negotiated settlement, that meeting is scheduled to take place on October 6, 2011. The draft consent order states that the Town of Wenham violated the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total coliform bacteria in three of the last eight months. The MCL for total coliform bacteria is no more than one positive sample in one month. The Town currently samples five different locations throughout Town once a month and the Pleasant Street Wells twice a month. Total coliforms are a group of bacteria commonly found in the environment, for example in soil or vegetation, as well as the intestines of mammals, including humans. Total coliform bacteria are not likely to cause illness, but their presence indicates that the water supply may be vulnerable to contamination by more harmful microorganisms. If a test is positive for total coliform it is then tested for more harmful bacteria such as E Coli, the Town of Wenham’s water supply has never tested positive for E Coli. Water samples collected just this week show that the water is free of microbiological contamination. This information hopefully helps to dispel any unwarranted concern regarding this matter. If, however, you have any questions or lingering concern, please feel free to call the Wenham Water Department at 978-468-5520, ext. 6.

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For further information:

Erik Mansfield
(978) 468-5520 ext. 6